

## CLAIMS:

1. A system for manipulation of a small object comprising  
a carrier to transport the small object  
a substrate to receive the small object and  
a fluid droplet which couples the small object detachably to the carrier and/or  
5 to the substrate.

2. A system for manipulation of a small object as claimed in Claim 1 wherein  
- a carrying fluid droplet is disposed on the carrier.

10 3. A system for manipulation of a small object as claimed in Claim 1 or 2,  
wherein  
- a target fluid droplet is disposed in the substrate.

15 4. A system for manipulation of a small object as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  
the target fluid droplet is placed on the substrate in predetermined positions or in a  
predetermined pattern.

5. A system for manipulation of a small object as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  
the ratio of size of the fluid droplets to the size of the objects is in the range  $1/_{10}$  to  $1/_{3}$ .

20 6. A system for manipulation of a small object as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  
the substrate is provided with one or several electrodes.

25 7. A system for manipulation of small objects as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the  
electrodes have a shape which corresponds to a shape of the small objects.

8. A system for manipulation of a small object, comprising  
- a pick-up plate on which pick-up carrying droplets are disposed  
- a feeding plate on which feeder target droplets are disposed

- a placing plate on which several placing electrodes are disposed
  - the feeding plate and the placing plate being coupled by a joint, in particular by a flexible joint and
- a device substrate on which substrate target droplets are disposed.

5

9. A system for manipulation of a small object as claimed in Claim 6 being provided with

- a detection system responsive to the carrying fluid droplets on the pick-up plate to distinguish carrying fluid droplets carrying the small objects from empty fluid droplets and
- a droplet discard system responsive to the detection system to remove the empty fluid droplets from the pick-up plate.

10

10. A method of manipulation of a small object having a carrying side with high wettability and a target side with low wettability

- placing said small object with its low wettability side on a carrying fluid droplet on a carrier
- bringing said carrier with the small object with its high wettability side into contact on deposition area on a substrate
- moving the carrier away from the substrate.

20

11. A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein with a target fluid droplet is placed at the deposition area.